

March 24, 1949.

Dr. Aaron Novick,
Institute of Radiobiology & Biophysics,
University of Chicago,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Aaron,

Thanks very much for the cultures. They have already been put to use. But I think I must have written a confusing letter. I already had B/1,t and B/1,5; would like to get just plain B..., and B/r if you have them around. Meanwhile, I've gotten at least one new phage, pl9, which has some of the properties I'm looking for. Stocks which are grown on H-518 (lambda-negative) give titers of 10^9 on 518, and only about 10^5 - 10^6 ~~(consequently)~~ on H-811 (518 with lambda). I don't know whether this is a mutant or just "low plating efficiency", probably the latter, and to that extent, not very satisfactory for my purposes. Perhaps Chicago sewage will do better. Are there postal regulations covering that sort of thing? (How do you suppose fecal samples are mailed?) pl9 does give a mutant (about 10^{-8} of the particles) which attacks B strains: pl9B seems to be distinct from the T phages, but I haven't been able to obtain any decent resistant mutants from B or K-12 (which gives mucoids), so it probably is no great help.

As for the tryptophane mutants— I just sent all I had to Danny Harris. Would you be able to get them from him? I'd just have to dig out my notes and the buried stocks again, while he probably has them live. If he doesn't already have ~~xxx~~ same, he'll likely be asking you for B/1,t as a strain blocked between indole and tryptophane.

That's a fine electromatic you're typing on, but it's doing things to your literary style.

Sincerely,